

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for decoding packetized program data from at least a first source to provide a program guide, comprising:

a processor for acquiring program guide information and for acquiring ancillary information in said packetized program data, said ancillary information including,

(a) a directory of executable software application files associated with objects, and

(b) a non-displayed map for associating an object with a program guide information item;

a processor for executing a software application to create an object and linking said object to a program guide information item; and

a display processor for forming a composite image including said image object and said program guide information item to provide a program guide for display.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said directory of executable software application files lists a file associated with at least one of (a) a broadcast program, (b) a broadcast channel and (c) User interface controls.

3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an object comprises at least one of (a) a video segment, (b) an audio segment, (c) text, (d) an icon representing a user selectable item for display, (e) an HTML or SGML document (f) a menu of selectable items, (g) an image window for presentation within an encompassing image, and (h) an image window for initiating a multimedia function.

4. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ancillary information further includes acquisition information for use in acquiring said ancillary information from a second source different to said first source, and said acquisition information includes one of (a) an Internet URL, (b) an

Internet IP address, (c) an Email address, and (d) a telephone/fax/videophone number.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display processor provides said program guide for display in response to a User selection input command selecting between available program guides.

6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ancillary information includes an object complexity level indicator, and said apparatus disregards objects of complexity level exceeding a predetermined level.

Claim 7-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for decoding packetized program data from at least a first source, comprising:

a processor for acquiring packetized program information including ancillary information and program guide information, said ancillary information including,

(a) an object file comprising application software for use in commanding a device, and

(b) a directory for associating said application software with a program listed in said program guide information; and

a processor using said ancillary information and for executing said application software to command said device in processing said listed program.

18. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said application software performs at least one of the following functions, (a) commands a VCR/DVD device to record a program at a scheduled broadcast time, (b) commands said apparatus to tune to a particular broadcast video channel, (c) commands said apparatus to tune to a particular broadcast audio channel.

19. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said application software comprises at least one of, (a) an HTML or SGML file, (b) a Java™ file, (c) an ActiveX™ file, (d) a web browser and (e) a decoder supported software language file.

20. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said directory lists a file associated with at least one of (a) a broadcast program, (b) a broadcast

channel, (c) User interface controls, and (d) a peripheral device attached to said apparatus.

21. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said ancillary information includes an object file complexity level indicator, and said apparatus disregards object files of complexity level exceeding a predetermined level.

22. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for decoding packetized program data from at least a first source to provide a program guide, comprising:

a processor for acquiring program guide information and for acquiring ancillary information in said packetized program data, said ancillary information including,

(a) a directory of object files associated with program guide information items, and

(b) an object file decoding complexity level indicator, and
a processor for disregarding object files of complexity level exceeding a predetermined level and for creating an image object from an object file and linking said image object to a program guide information item; and

a display processor for forming a composite image including said image object and said program guide information item to provide a program guide for display.

23. (Currently Amended) A storage medium containing digital data representing video information comprising:

packetized program information representing a video program;
ancillary information including information for processing multimedia objects comprising,

(a) a directory of executable software application files associated with objects, and

(b) a non-displayed map for associating an object with a program guide information item; and

information for executing a software application to create an object and linking said object to a program guide information item in an image for display.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for decoding packetized program data from at least a first source to provide a program guide, comprising the steps of:

acquiring program guide information and for acquiring ancillary information in said packetized program data, said ancillary information including,

(a) a directory of executable software application files associated with objects, and

(b) a non-displayed map for associating an object with a program guide information item; and

executing a software application to create an object;

linking said image object to a program guide information item; and

forming a composite image including said image object and said program guide information item to provide a program guide for display.

Claim 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A method for decoding packetized program data from at least a first source, comprising the steps of:

acquiring packetized program information including ancillary information and program guide information, said ancillary information including,

(a) an object file comprising application software for use in commanding a device, and

(b) a directory for associating said application software with a program listed in said program guide information; and

using said ancillary information to determine a program for processing by a device; and

executing said application software to command said device in processing said listed program.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for forming packetized program data to be suitable for processing in a decoder, comprising the steps of:

forming program guide information and ancillary information including,

(a) a directory of object files associated with program guide information items, and

(b) a non-displayed map for associating said object files with said program guide information items;

incorporating said ancillary information and said program guide information into packetized data for output to a transmission channel.